

**Pine Creek Refuse
AML Enhancement Rule Project
Letcher County**

Project Description

The proposed project (6 acres total) consists of removing an existing coal refuse pile in Letcher County for reprocessing. The project area is centrally located in the Mayking Quadrangle at 37° 07' 49" latitude and 82° 45' 35" longitude (see the attached map). The entire project work area has been previously disturbed by any or all of the following: coal mining operations, including mine drainage, timber operations, gas/oil well development, residential development, road construction, and/or high velocity water flows associated with heavy rain events and flooding. These disturbances consist of significant upheaval, mixing, and removal of earthen material from deep excavation, grading, sub-surface drilling, fill material placement, and erosion. There should be no undisturbed earthen material to a depth of several feet at the areas slated for significant project-related construction activities.

This project will include excavating the existing coal refuse pile, using an existing access-haul road for trucks, and excavating a proposed borrow area for soil to cover the existing pile area. The coal refuse pile was created in the 1940s from underground workings within the Elkhorn No. 3 Coal Seam by Mayking Coal Company. The proposed reclamation project area is located immediately adjacent to the creek near the mouth of Pine Creek. The existing coal refuse pile is a potential fire hazard, an environmental threat, and a possible source of stream pollution in Pine Creek.

Once removed, the coal refuse material will be trucked to the Premier Elkhorn Preparation Plant (Permit #898-8076). After the marketable coal has been separated out, the remaining waste material will be placed within Premier Elkhorn Mining's refuse/waste disposal area (Permit #898-9072) located adjacent to the preparation plant. The existing access road will be maintained during the refuse removal operation and dust will be controlled by watering methods. The road will be watered by utilizing a water truck when needed. All truck engine brakes will be used at a minimum to reduce traffic noise.

Drainage from the recovery operation will be initially controlled by utilizing an existing depression (sump) located within the back of the refuse piles. The refuse will be removed beginning at the top of the pile and moving downward. The removal operation will begin by removing the refuse material in 5 foot lifts with the work area consistently sloped to the back. A depression/sump area will be maintained at the back at all times in order to control runoff. A series of sumps/sediment traps will be constructed on either side of the work area to control runoff. Additionally, as the work area begins in different lifts, a berm (approximately five feet in height) will be maintained at the front of the work area. As the material is removed, the berm will be pulled back with an excavator

and maintained for material removal on the following lift, as the process is repeated. This process will allow for complete removal of the refuse pile with minimal disturbance of the refuse pile outslope at any given time. Basically, the refuse pile will be worked from within itself. As the refuse pile lowers in elevation, the front berm would be pulled inward and lowered simultaneously until the valley floor is reached. The work crew will maintain an undisturbed buffer zone 10 feet wide between the project and Pine Creek.

The operator conducting the removal operation will utilize caution when removing the refuse material located at the Elkhorn #3 elevation to ensure that no adit exists, and if water is encountered it will be allowed to bleed off slowly and will be directed to a sediment control basin/depression area (if necessary, one will be constructed) prior to entering the local stream channel. Once the water has been removed, removal operations will continue. Additionally, if water is encountered it will be allowed to discharge and free flow, unless it is determined that this possible drainage area needs to be re-sealed in order to maintain existing domestic water supplies.

All refuse removal will be conducted between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, unless an emergency warrants the changing of the scheduled work hours. If emergency refuse removal is warranted, Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML) personnel will be notified in advance of such removal. Emergency refuse removal will not occur until DAML gives prior approval unless the emergency constitutes a direct and imminent threat to public health and safety.

As refuse recovery operations are completed in any given area not to be redisturbed, the area will be scarified, limed, topsoiled to a minimum depth of one foot, then seeded and mulched according to the revegetation plan. Necessary topsoil material will be obtained from the borrow area as shown on the project map. If the original topsoil located at the original groundline proves to not have been contaminated by the refuse material, alternate topsoil material will not be necessary. Upon completion of refuse recovery operations, all disturbed areas including the borrow area will be revegetated to prevent erosion and establish a suitable post reclamation land use, compatible with future anticipated uses by the surface owner. The areas to be revegetated may require lime application to neutralize any acidic or barren spots or to promote vegetative growth. Location and rates of lime application will be determined by DAML.

Tree planting shall be accomplished between February 1 and April 15. Trees will be planted by DAML, and shall consist of one or two year old seedlings of species determined by DAML. No disturbance of any stream reach is planned. All necessary permits and/or variances will be procured prior to construction. The project will require tree removal. Metal debris or any trash, should it be encountered, within the refuse area will be hauled to an off-site approved landfill. Construction disturbances will be kept to a minimum through the use of a stringently formulated sediment and erosion control program, consisting of hay-bale silt checks and silt fences maintained throughout the life of the project, prompt re-vegetation using agricultural limestone, fertilizer, seed, netting and mulch for the areas disturbed by the project.

This project will include pre- and/or post- project maintenance and repair of existing previously constructed public county roads utilized during the construction of this project, which are administered by the county or local road authority. This construction activity will be conducted under the authority and supervision of the local public road authority and will consist of standard road construction practices appropriate to mitigate impacts to the local community from potential degraded road conditions in order to maintain public traffic safety.